

MISSION STATEMENT AND BYLAWS
OF THE
EIGHTEENTH- AND NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITISH WOMEN WRITERS
ASSOCIATION

The Conference on Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women writers provides a forum to discuss women's writing—writing which has historically been overlooked, ignored, or excluded from the canon. Since the 1970's, tremendous strides have been made in reclaiming women's literary traditions, but much work remains. In an effort to encourage further scholarly efforts, including collaboration and discussion, this conference moves beyond strict literary boundaries and includes presentations on women's political, legal, medical, religious and scientific writing. Our goal is to truly expand the canon, which in part means redefining "literature." We support an atmosphere of genuine inquiry and interaction between conference participants, which has previously included graduate students and established scholars alike.

The conjunction of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries encourages a re-examination of the existing constructs of history and literature, such as the Restoration, Romantic, and Victorian periods, and promotes investigation of the intersections between women authors of various time periods. The focus on British women writers both limits our scope and expands the existing forums for this area of study.

In order to facilitate the annual conferences and ensure their continuity, a steering committee has been formed. This group will be made up of graduate students and previous conference organizers and will provide information and guidance to the host institution of the annual conference. All major changes in the conference format and content will be approved by the committee before implementation. The responsibilities of the steering committee are as follows:

1. Hold an on-going file/archive (both on disc and on paper) of previous conference documents, including
 - a. an updates address list of individuals and organizations involved with the conference
 - b. budgetary information
 - c. models for grant proposals
 - d. publicity information
 - e. list of keynote speakers and topics
 - f. other conference-related information
2. Suggest a calendar of deadlines to assist the host institution in planning a successful conference.
3. Establish and maintain a separate and ongoing bank account built upon previous conferences, which may serve the following purposes:
 - a. solicit matching funds from host institutions
 - b. subsidizing special needs, which will be agreed upon by the committee members
 - c. maintain tax exempt status for the organization

- d. support graduate student travel awards
4. Upon request, assist in organizing special events which enhance the conference (conference proceedings, book publisher tables, etc.).
5. Schedule a formal meeting at each year's conference.
6. Appoint members for each consecutive year, though members are encouraged to serve more than one year to provide for continuity.
7. Provide guidance and support for the Writing Women Newsletter, which will in turn promote and publish information about each year's conference.

In addition to organizing the conference, the host institution's responsibilities include:

1. Communicating regularly with a representative of the steering committee, who will then be responsible for contacting other members at least once a quarter or more often as needed.
2. Selecting keynote speakers, though the steering committee will provide support/make contacts for keynote speakers if so desired.
3. Appointing one member of their organizing committee as a regular contact person for the steering committee and appointing two members to serve on the steering committee for the year following their conference.
4. Providing a financial/budget summary statement following the conference.
5. Providing new addresses to the steering committee for updating the list.

The Annual Conference Format will include:

1. At least two days of concurrent sessions, with no more than five sessions at a time.
2. No more than three presenters per panel. Papers must be limited to 20 minutes.
3. A balance of centuries, genres, and discourses. Panels should be organized around a variety of themes, authors, periods, genres, racial and political identities, etc. Quality rather than quantity should be emphasized. Consideration should be given to previous conference members, but inviting new participants is vital to conference growth.
4. A healthy balance of established scholars and graduate students should be maintained.

5. At least two keynote speakers, one from the 18th and one from the 19th century. We strongly encourage women scholars be selected, though any scholar whose primary research is in women writers should be considered. An effort should be made to invite speakers who address a variety of themes, subjects, discourses, genres, etc. In order to continue expanding the canon and our understanding of women's texts and textual practices.
6. At least one formal and one informal social event (i.e.—one luncheon, one tea, or one banquet, one reception) should be held to promote interaction between conference attendees.
7. Calls for papers should require abstracts rather than papers. Abstracts should be submitted at least 2 months prior to the conference. Calls for Papers should be distributed at the conferences of and appear in publications such as the MLA and various related organizations (Aphra Behn, INCS, ASECS, etc.)
8. Paper selection and conference panels are made by the host institution. A preliminary schedule should be sent to steering committee members.
9. A planning session for the steering committee should be scheduled at each conference. Time should be set aside for this planning session following conference, so that it will not conflict with other scheduled events or the pre-conference duties of the host institution.